

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 HEW-04 AF-10
ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /108 W
-----180530Z 055560 /20

P 180452Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9854

INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (MANILA): GENERAL
DEBATE

1. THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION AND SPECIAL MEETING
ON THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN ASIA BEGAN MAY 17 WITH OPENING
CEREMONY STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS, PHILIPPINE
ACTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY COLLANTES; UNICEF EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR HARRY LABOUISSSE (ALSO SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE SYG),
AND UNICEF BOARD CHAIRMAN ORDONEZ-PLAJA.

2. IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS, PRESIDENT MARCOS URGED UNICEF TO
DECLARE A 10 YEAR PROGRAM TO DEVOTE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE
SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN ASIA, CALLING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
"THE DECADE OF THE CHILD IN ASIA" (DECADE). ON BEHALF OF THE
PHILIPPINES, MARCOS ALSO OFFERED TO HOST AN ASIAN REGIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT. WE ASSUME THE PHILIPPINE DELE-
GATION WILL BE SPELLING OUT THEIR PROPOSAL, AND LOBBYING FOR
IT, AS THE SESSION PROGRESSES. OUR PRELIMINARY REACTION TO THE
DECADE IS ONE OF SKEPTICISM. WE HAVE DOUBTS WITH REGARD TO
A) ITS APPROPRIATENESS FOR UNICEF BOARD ACTION, B) ITS IMPACT
IN POTENTIALLY SKEWING UNICEF PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS C)
THE POSSIBILITY IT WILL GENERATE SIMILAR REACTIONS FROM
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OTHER REGIONS. (CONCEIVABLY THIS WOULD BE THE KIND OF IDEA
BETTER DEBATED IN OTHER FORA, SUCH AS ESCAP, WHICH HAS A
REGIONAL FOCUS.) WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN THE HOST GOVERN-
MENT PRESIDENT PROPOSES A PROGRAM OF THIS NATURE BEFORE A
SPECIAL SESSION COMPRISED MAINLY OF MEMBERS OF THE REGION,
THERE IS A HIGH PROBABILITY IT WILL HAVE BROAD SUPPORT.
THUS WE WOULD RECOMMEND THE US TAKE A LOW PROFILE ON THIS

MATTER IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS SPECIAL SESSION, USING THE
CORRIDORS TO TRY TO SHAPE THE OUTCOME ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL INQUIRIES FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS
REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE US FY 1978 GENERAL RESOURCES
CONTRIBUTION TO UNICEF, AND THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE
CHILD. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE AN UPDATING ON THE
STATUS OF THE AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION MEASURES
FOR BOTH, ASAP.
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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PORG, RP, UNICEF
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